Non-Payment of Minimum Wages by Tobacco Traders

1810. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases have been booked against tobacco traders in Andhra Pradesh for not paying minimum wages to their workers:

(b) if so, what are the names of the erring traders/companies;

(c) since how long these cases are pending; and

(d) what action has been taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Provision for Old age Pension *to* the Agricultural Workers

1811. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM:

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a legislation for providing old age pension, medical assistance or even money for children's education to agricultural workers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the estimate total expenditure involved in awarding such facilities during a year;

(c) what is the proposed mechanism through which such facilities will be made available to the farm labourer; and

(d) what is the safety valve to ensure that these facilities will reach the farm workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to bring forward a Central legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith. The details of the said proposal have not so far been finalised'

Default in Contributions to Provident Fund

1812. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL:

Will *the* Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Industries and companies which defaulted in depositing the Provident Fund contributions collected from the salaries of the labourers, State-wise during the last three years;

(b) the names of Industries and Companies which defaulted in depositing their contribution to Provident Fund during the last three years. State-wise; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to bring more workers under ESI Medical Benefit Scheme

1813. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 892,000 industrial workers are yet to be brought under the purview of the ESI medical benefit scheme: and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure these workers get the benefits of the ESI Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.